

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Julianne D'Iorio [radiance1005@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2009 11:04 PM

**To:** Friis, John

**Subject:** HB6666, Section 5

Dear Representative Fleischmann, Senator Gaffey, and members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to strongly advocate for Sec.5 of House Bill H6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high-school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 10-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

In addition, parents must be allowed to pay privately if their school districts do not cover tuitions to ECA. Students who pay privately make up 25% of the school; not allowing students whose school districts cannot cover tuitions (and this year's school-district budgets have already been set) will have the effect of depriving both students whose districts cannot pay AND students whose districts are able to pay of an extraordinary education at ECA, because ECA cannot lose 25% of its students and survive.

I am deeply upset to hear all of this. ECA and the educators there have been hugely instrumental in my development as an artist, instructor, and person. I learned to embrace uniqueness and dance as an art form through the educators at ECA. Their work and their passion for their art is truly inspirational and it would be a grave disservice to community and to their students to place restrictive boundaries upon their credentials and upon the school as a whole. Educators at ECA are artists first and that is what makes the experience at ECA an inspirational and life changing time.

Please keep ECA open so that the good teachers there can continue to share their passion and experience!!!

Regards,

-Julianne D'Iorio

2004 ECA graduate, dance department

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3/16/2009